

What's on Your List?

Toxic Chemicals In Your Shopping Cart



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Washington Toxics Coalition uses ground-breaking research, top-notch advocacy, in-depth grassroots organizing and high quality consumer information to help create a healthier and just world by promoting safer products, chemicals, and practices, and a healthier future for the next generation.

Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families

Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families is a national campaign working to protect American families and the environment from toxic chemicals.

Safer States

At Safer States we believe families, communities, and the environment should be protected from the devastating impacts of our society's heavy use of chemicals. We believe that new state and national chemical policies will contribute to the formation of a cleaner, greener economy.

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Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families

Editorial Review

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Executive Summary

Parents want and expect the products they use to care for their children to be safe and free of harmful chemicals. But our nation's toxic chemical laws are weak and ineffective and many harmful chemicals get into everyday consumer products without the public's knowledge. Taking steps to remedy this problem, Washington State passed the Children's Safe Products Act in 2008 (CSPA). CSPA set up requirements for makers of children's products being sold in Washington to report to the state if these products contain chemicals on a list of 66 Chemicals of High Concern to Children. Manufacturer reporting began phasing-in in 2012. This document summarizes the chemicals and products reported from March 5 to September 6 of 2013.

Overall there were 4,605 reports of Chemicals of High Concern to Children reported in children's products such as toys, clothing, baby safety products, and bedding during this time period. A total of 78 companies such as Walmart, Target, Safeway, Walgreens, Nike, and Toys "R" Us reported products containing harmful chemicals. A total of 49 chemicals such as formaldehyde, bisphenol A (BPA), parabens, phthalates, heavy metals, and industrial solvents were reported. The health effects of reported chemicals include carcinogenicity, endocrine disruption, and developmental or reproductive toxicity. This time period of reporting showed new companies reporting and showed new products being reported such as children's tableware containing formaldehyde and toy vehicles containing antimony trioxide flame retardant.

Washington's reporting law is achievable for the business community. More states should be passing these laws so families have chemical information about products being sold where they live. Retailers should remove products containing toxic chemicals from their store shelves. Ultimately, companies should phase these chemicals out of use and Congress should strengthen and update the federal Toxic Substances Control Act. Families can help bring about these changes by taking action.





Washington State's Children's Safe Products Act of 2008 requires makers of children's products containing chemicals on a list of 66 Chemicals of High Concern to Children to report to the state when these products are sold in Washington. 4,605 reports of 49 chemicals by 78 companies were made to Washington State from March 5 to September 6 of 2013.



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Car seats, tennis shoes, dolls, and sleeping bags. When you fill your shopping cart with items like these, you may be bringing home another list, too: carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and developmental and reproductive toxicants.

Harmful chemicals are present in many of the products families use every day to care for their children. National laws that are supposed to protect us from these chemicals are outdated and ineffective, which means that unregulated and undisclosed toxic chemicals are in consumer products without the public's knowledge. Families are filling up shopping carts with the products they need to care for their children, but they may be bringing harmful chemicals home, too.

While the national law lags, the public is starting to get a window into some of the harmful chemicals present in children's products, thanks to Washington State's Children's Safe Products Act of 2008 (CSPA). Under CSPA, manufacturers of children's products are required to report to the state if their products contain chemicals on a list of 66 Chemicals of High Concern to Children. Washington State's CSPA is the most comprehensive chemical disclosure law in the U.S. today. See Appendix A for more information about CSPA.

What's On Your List? looks at information on harmful chemicals in children's products reported directly by manufacturers under Washington State's chemical disclosure law from March through the beginning of September of 2013 – the third round of reports during phase-in of reporting requirements. All health effects information given in *What's On Your List?* is based on information compiled by Washington's Department of Health (1) to create the reporting list of Chemicals of High Concern to Children.

Major Findings

1. Children's products may expose children to chemicals linked to harmful health effects.

Washington's 66 Chemicals of High Concern to Children were selected for reporting because scientific evidence links them to serious health effects and because children are likely to be exposed to them. The chemicals reported to Washington State over this six-month period include carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and developmental and reproductive toxicants.

2. Toxic chemicals are widespread in children's products.

In this six-month period 78 manufacturers submitted 4,605 reports of 49 hazardous chemicals in children's products under Washington State's chemical reporting law. Products reported include children's tableware, toys, clothing and footwear, bedding, and baby products. This data is extensive and there is more to come.

3. Chemical disclosure provides important information and companies are able to provide it.

Chemical disclosure should spur policymakers and consumers to ask new questions about chemicals in everyday product and to identify priorities for action.

Phthalates in Children's Tops

- Endocrine disruptors
- Developmental or reproductive toxicants



Bisphenol A (BPA) in Dolls & Soft Toys

- Developmental or reproductive toxicant



Antimony Trioxide Flame Retardant in Toy Vehicles

- Carcinogen



TCEP Flame Retardant in Baby Car Seats

- Carcinogen
- Reproductive Toxicant



Formaldehyde in Children's Tableware

- Carcinogen



Parabens in Personal Care Products

- Endocrine disruptors



Major Health Effects of Chemicals of High Concern to Children

The three major health effects used by Washington to identify the reporting list of Chemicals of High Concern to Children are carcinogenicity, endocrine disruption, and reproductive and developmental toxicity.

Carcinogens

A carcinogen is a substance or exposure that is capable of causing cancer. Cancer has multiple causes, including exposure to carcinogenic chemicals or pollution (2).

Carcinogens reported in children's products through Washington's chemical disclosure system include:

- Formaldehyde
- Antimony trioxide
- Tris (2-chloroethyl)phosphate (TCEP)
- Decabromodiphenyl ether (deca or BDE-209)

Endocrine Disruptors

An endocrine disruptor is a chemical that can change the system of hormones (the endocrine system) in the body and disrupt how hormones are supposed to function. The endocrine system helps control and coordinates many of the body's functions such as reproduction, response to stress, and growth and development (3).

Endocrine disruptors reported in children's products through Washington's chemical disclosure system include:

- Phthalates
- Parabens
- 4-Nonylphenol
- Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4)

Developmental or Reproductive Toxicants

A developmental toxicant is a chemical that adversely affects the growth and development of a young child when a child is exposed prenatally. A reproductive toxicant is a chemical that interferes with reproductive ability or capacity.

Developmental or reproductive toxicants reported in children's products through Washington's chemical disclosure system include:

- Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)
- Ethylene glycol
- Mercury
- Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA)

Please see Appendix B for a list of all chemicals reported over this time period and the major health effects associated with them.



Might Want to Give Someone This Shirt Off Your Back

Phthalates in Children's Tops

Phthalates were reported in children's tops and upper wear. One or more reported phthalates may be present in a single top. The phthalates that were reported in tops are:

- Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)
- Di-n-octyl phthalate (DnOP)
- Dibutyl phthalate
- Diisodecyl phthalate
- Diethyl phthalate
- Diisononyl phthalate

Butyl benzyl phthalate and dibutyl phthalate must be reported under Washington's disclosure law because of scientific evidence that they are endocrine disruptors and developmental or reproductive toxicants. Di-n-octyl phthalate, Diisodecyl phthalate and diisononyl phthalate are developmental toxicants. Diethyl phthalate is an endocrine disruptor.

As surprising as it is to see phthalates reported in children's tops, it's even more surprising how many clothing products of all types are being reported under Washington's chemical reporting law. It's not just tops and upper wear, it's pants, shorts, skirts, dresses, nightclothes, jackets, socks, underwear, hats, etc., etc. Clothing items were the most often reported at 1,839 out of 4,605 total reports during this reporting period (see Figure 1). Many Chemicals of High Concern to Children in addition to phthalates were reported as being present in clothing, including endocrine disruptors, developmental or reproductive toxicants, and carcinogens.



Not So Cuddly

Bisphenol A (BPA) in Dolls & Soft Toys

Bisphenol A (BPA) in plastic in dolls and soft toys was reported. BPA must be reported under Washington's disclosure law because of scientific evidence that it is a developmental and reproductive toxicant. BPA is used in polycarbonate as well as PVC plastic. BPA was also reported in surface coatings and other materials as a contaminant. Products reported as containing BPA also include jewelry, bath and pool water toys, outdoor games and play structures, and shoes.

BPA was phased out of baby bottles in Washington State in 2011 and out of sports water bottles in 2012. Action taken on BPA by a number of states including Washington spurred the Food and Drug Administration to ban BPA from baby bottles nationally. Here is an example of the makers of children's products going against the spirit of the national BPA ban in baby bottles by continuing to expose children to this chemical in other products.



Stamping Out Flame Retardant Fires

Even with public opinion swinging away from the use of ineffective yet toxic flame retardants in children's products and furniture, manufacturers not only are still using them, they are reporting some new and surprising uses.

Antimony Trioxide Flame Retardant in Toy Vehicles

Antimony was reported as a flame retardant in surface coatings on toy vehicles. Antimony compounds must be reported under Washington's chemical disclosure law because of scientific evidence that antimony trioxide is a carcinogen.

Antimony trioxide is used as a flame retardant in plastic. It can be used on its own or as a synergist with other flame retardants such as TBBPA or deca-BDE. Antimony was also reported to Washington State as a flame retardant in styling doll heads, changing mats, bath and pool water toys, false hair, and in clothing. Antimony used as a flame retardant was reported more often than in previous rounds of manufacturer reporting to Washington State.



TCEP Flame Retardant in Baby Car Seats

The chlorinated Tris flame retardant Tris (2-chloroethyl) phosphate, or TCEP, was reported in the textile of baby car seats and booster seats. TCEP must be reported under Washington's chemical disclosure law because of scientific evidence that it is carcinogenic and is a reproductive toxicant.

Deca Flame Retardant

Surprisingly, decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209, or deca) flame retardant was reported in the plastic of baby car and booster seats. It was also reported as a contaminant in some jewelry products. Washington passed legislation in 2007 banning deca for certain uses.

Following Washington's action, deca was voluntarily taken out of production nationally. Through Washington's chemical disclosure law, we can see that some manufacturers are willing to ignore the spirit of this voluntary ban and find sources overseas or to allow it to be present in children's products as a contaminant. Deca must be reported under Washington's chemical disclosure law because of scientific evidence that it is a carcinogen and a developmental toxicant. Without Washington's chemical disclosure law, we would not know about the continued presence of this very toxic chemical in children's products.

Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) Flame Retardant

Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) is reported as a flame retardant in plastic in toy vehicles, as a component of plastic jewelry and as an adhesive in jewelry craft materials. TBBPA was also reported as a pigment in surface coatings in toy vehicles. To our knowledge this is an unusual use of TBBPA. TBBPA must be reported under Washington's chemical disclosure law because of scientific evidence that it is a developmental and reproductive toxicant.

Serving Up Some Unsavory Ingredients

Formaldehyde in Children's Tableware



Formaldehyde was reported in children's plastic bowls, plates, and other tableware. Formaldehyde must be reported under Washington's chemical disclosure law because of scientific evidence that it is a carcinogen. But formaldehyde isn't the only unsavory ingredient being reported by manufacturers of children's tableware. Children's plastic plates, bowls, mugs and cups, drinking glasses and other tableware was reported as containing ethylbenzene, toluene, and phthalates as well as formaldehyde.



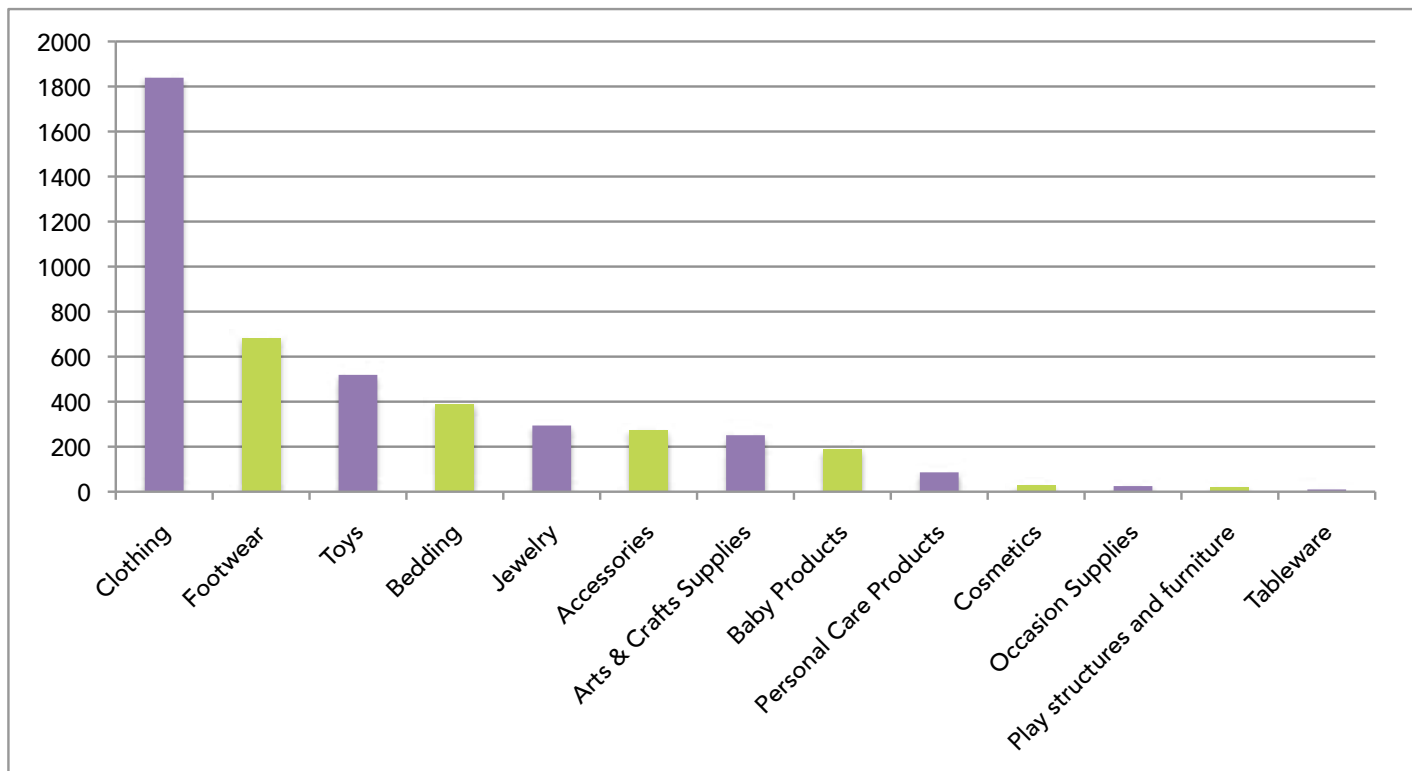
More Than Skin Deep

Parabens in Personal Care Products

Parabens were reported being used as preservatives in skin care/moisturizer products. One or more reported parabens may be present in the same product. The parabens reported in skin care and moisturizer products include butyl paraben, methyl paraben, propyl paraben and ethyl paraben. Parabens must be reported under Washington's chemical disclosure law because of scientific evidence that they are endocrine disruptors. Harmful chemicals present in skin care products are of special concern because of the exposure potential when these products are directly applied to the skin.

We expected to see parabens being reported in personal care products such as moisturizers and cosmetics. But it was surprising to see parabens also being reported as preservatives in clothing and toys.

Figure 1. Products Containing Chemicals of High Concern to Children
March 5, 2013 through September 6, 2013*

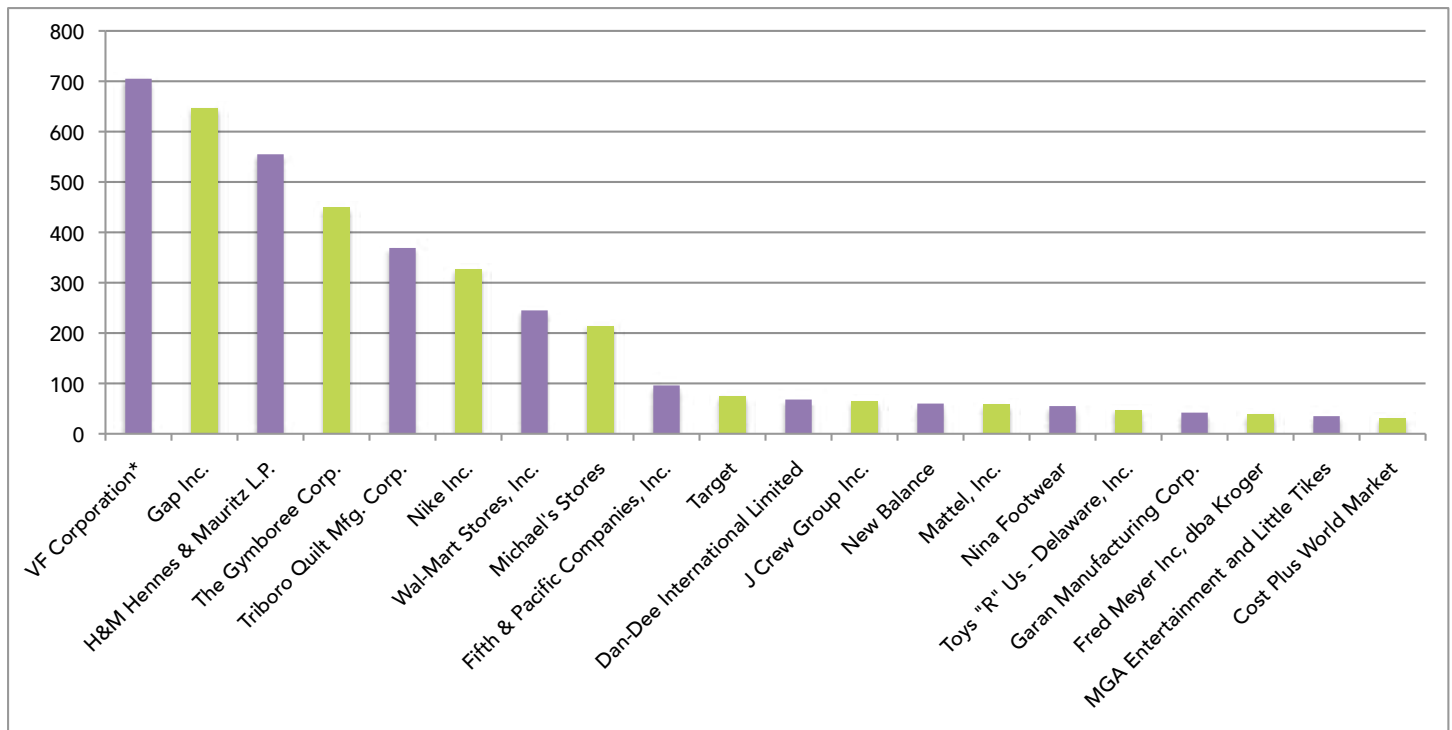


*Product categories are grouped for ease of understanding

What Products Are Reported the Most Often?

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of products reported over this time period. There were many specific product categories reported; these were grouped into larger product categories in this bar graph for ease of understanding. Clothing stands out as the product category reported much more often than any other; clothing items make up 40% of all reports. Footwear, toys, and bedding were the next several product groups reported most often.

Figure 2. The Top 20 Companies Reporting Products Containing Chemicals of High Concern to Children March 5 through September 6 of 2013



* VF Corporation includes brands such as Lee, JanSport, The North Face, Wrestler, Vans Off the Wall, etc.

What Companies are Reporting These Products?

Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the top 20 reporting companies over this time period. Washington's chemical reporting law is still phasing-in with only some medium-sized companies as well as larger companies being required to report. Smaller companies will be reporting in the future. So far we can see that companies of all sizes required to report make products containing hazardous chemicals.

So who are the bad guys here? Of course the largest companies reporting the largest number of products are potentially exposing the largest number of children to harmful chemicals. But at the same time, some of the largest reporters may be the companies that are trying to get control of toxic chemical use

throughout their supply chain. They may just know more about their products at this time than other less proactive companies. Many of the highest reporters are also implementing toxic chemical reduction activities and have adopted chemical restriction lists. We say bravo to them for these actions! The bad guys? What's definite is that the bad guys include the harmful chemicals that children are exposed to every day due to their unregulated and undisclosed presence in common consumer products and the companies that defend the use of these chemicals.

Additional companies with 25 or fewer reports of Chemicals of High Concern to Children over this time period include Hasbro, Levi Strauss & Co., Hallmark Cards, Nordstrom, IKEA North America, J.C. Penney, Army and Air Force Exchange, Johnson & Johnson, LEGO, Claire's, Walgreens, Avon, and Radio Shack.

How Do I Protect My Family From Harmful Chemicals?

The widespread data makes it clear - there are too many toxic chemicals in too many of the products we use to take care of our families. So what is a shopper to do?

- **Take a deep breath and don't panic.** Then take some easy steps for making safer choices and you'll soon be on your way to reducing your family's exposure to toxic chemicals.
- **Learn more and practice healthy home habits.** Green cleaning recipes, product guides, label-reading advice; there are many great resources out there to help you reduce your use of and exposure to harmful chemicals. Here are a few resources to get you started:

- Washington Toxics Coalition's Healthy Living resources at <http://watoxics.org/healthy-living>
- Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Tips to Keep Toxic Chemicals at Bay at <http://blog.saferchemicals.org/2011/02/top-tips-to-keep-toxic-chemicals-at-bay.html>
- Women's Voices for the Earth website at <http://www.womensvoices.org>
- Ecology Center's database of consumer products at <http://www.healthystuff.org>

- **Take action.** While the widespread problem of toxic chemicals is disturbing, there is good news. It is possible to pass laws restricting the worst toxic hazards. Parents, shoppers, and citizens have already made a big difference by demanding change – and change is coming. You can be a part of that change. Go to the Safer States website at http://www.saferstates.com/states_in_the_lead/ to get involved in a campaign in your state, or to Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families at <http://www.saferchemicals.org> to get involved in efforts to pass a new federal law.

Recommendations

Washington's chemical reporting law, the Children's Safe Products Act of 2008, is giving us unprecedented information about harmful chemicals in children's products. Families are filling up their shopping carts with products that may be exposing their children to harmful chemicals. We must get toxic chemicals under control.

- 1. Pass chemical disclosure laws in more states.** States should require companies to report when their products contain toxic chemicals. Washington State's system has clearly demonstrated that companies are capable of providing this important information and that states can manage the information and provide it to the public. Other states should follow suit, creating lists of priority chemicals of concern and requiring that companies disclose their use. Ultimately, states should require companies to phase out the use of toxic chemicals in products.
- 2. States should take the lead in phasing out harmful chemicals.** Around our country states have shown leadership in restricting toxic chemicals including phthalates, bisphenol A (BPA), heavy metals, and toxic flame retardants. States should adopt restrictions on harmful chemicals and ensure they are not replaced with others that are equally bad or worse. Chemicals that can cause cancer, learning disabilities or reproductive harm should be replaced with safer alternatives.
- 3. Mind the Store.** Retailers should ensure that products on their shelves are free of toxic chemicals. The Mind the Store Campaign has asked major retailers to ensure that products they sell are free of the Hazardous Hundred, a list of 100+ chemicals that pose a threat to people and the environment. Major retailers and those that specialize in baby products should lead the way by making sure their products are free of these toxic chemicals.
- 4. Broken federal laws must be fixed.** Congress should update the badly broken and outdated Toxic Substances Control Act with protections that eliminate the use of the most toxic chemicals, including those that cause cancer, reproductive harm or infertility, learning disabilities, or disrupt hormones. Congress must preserve the rights of states, which have been in the lead on creating protections from toxic chemicals, to take actions that go beyond federal law.

References

- (1) Department of Health, State of Washington, Rationale for Reporting List of Chemicals of High Concern to Children, April 18, 2011.
- (2) American Cancer Society, Known and Probable Human Carcinogens, retrieved December 13, 2013. <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/othercarcinogens/generalinformationaboutcarcinogens/known-and-probable-human-carcinogens>
- (3) Mackar, R. 3-D images show flame retardants can mimic estrogens in The Environmental Factor, September 2013. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/newsletter/2013/9/science-3d/index.htm>
- (4) Department of Ecology, State of Washington, Process Used to Generate Reporting List, Executive Summary, retrieved December 16, 2013. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/rules/pdf/CSPAexsum.pdf>

Appendix A

Washington State's Children's Safe Products Act of 2008

In 2008, the Washington State Legislature passed the Children's Safe Products Act (CSPA). This law requires manufacturers to report the presence of 66 Chemicals of High Concern to Children in products designed for children. Reporting requirements began phasing-in in 2012, starting with the largest manufacturers and with the products having the highest exposure potential for children. CSPA is the most comprehensive chemical reporting law in the U.S. today.

After the very first release of manufacturers' reports in 2012, Washington Toxics Coalition tested children's fragrance products for phthalates and found some companies that should have reported their products but did not. This information was released to the public in the report *Something Smells: What Tween Perfume Makers Don't Tell You, But Should* in October, 2012. Manufacturer reports covering over 5,000 products were summarized in Washington Toxics Coalition's and Safer States' May 2013 report, *Chemicals Revealed: Over 5,000 Kids' Products Contain Toxic Chemicals*. *What's On Your List?* picks up where *Chemicals Revealed* left off, taking a look at data reported between March 5 and September 6 of 2013. These two reports can be found at <http://watoxics.org/publications/something-smells-what-tween-perfume-makers-should-tell-you-but-dont> and <http://watoxics.org/publications/chemicals-revealed>.

How the List of Chemicals of High Concern to Children Was Established

There are 66 chemicals that must be reported to the state under Washington's chemical disclosure law. When the Children's Safe Products Act passed, Washington State's Department of Ecology (Ecology) compiled a long list of chemicals designated by authoritative sources as having certain health effects and cross-checked them with information on how children could be exposed. Ecology decided to prioritize three key health effects: carcinogenicity, reproductive or developmental toxicity, and endocrine disruption. Washington's Department of Health assisted in reviewing the list and the information (4), and University of Washington scientists developed the final prioritization scheme.

Since there are thousands of chemicals that could potentially be of concern to children and scientific knowledge about these chemicals increases every day, there is also a process by which additional chemicals can be added to the list. As of this writing, one additional chemical – Tris (1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCPP), a flame retardant linked to cancer and hormone disruption – has been added.

The database of information reported by manufacturers can be seen through Washington's Department of Ecology website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/search.html>.

Washington State Information Helps People Everywhere

Washington State's chemical disclosure law is the first of its kind in the U.S. It helps us all because:

- Many of the companies that are required to report chemicals to Washington State (such as Target and Walmart) distribute and sell their products nationwide.
- Much of the information Washington State now collects about toxic chemicals in children's products has never before been made public. This allows consumers and regulators to ask new questions about chemicals in consumer products.
- The information provides a clearer picture of both the kinds of chemicals used and the products those chemicals are used in (e.g. clothing, tableware) helping guide overall consumer purchasing decisions.

But there are companies that sell products only in certain states or regions, so it is very important for other states to pass their own chemical disclosure laws.

Thanks to the Children's Safe Products Act, pieces are falling into place forming a picture of the true extent of hazardous chemicals in products used every day to care for children.

Appendix B

Major Health Effects Of Chemicals
Reported Under Washington's Children's Safe Products Act
March 5 though September 6 of 2013

Chemical	Number of Times Reported	Carcinogen	Endocrine Disruptor	Developmental or Reproductive Toxicant
Cobalt & cobalt compounds	948	X		X
Ethylene glycol	856			X
Antimony & antimony compounds	442	X		
Methyl ethyl ketone	420			X
Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane	356		X	
Styrene	303	X		X
Molybdenum & compounds	225			X
Diisononyl phthalate (DINP)	93			X
Di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate	83	X	X	X
Formaldehyde	77	X		
Dibutyl phthalate	75		X	X
Methyl paraben	56		X	
Toluene	52			X
Butyl benzyl phthalate	50		X	X
Propyl paraben	50		X	
Ethylbenzene	48	X		X
C.I. Solvent Yellow 14	46	X		X
Di-n-Octyl phthalate (DnOP)	45			X
Diethyl phthalate	42		X	
Diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP)	42			X
4-Nonylphenol	39		X	X
Arsenic & arsenic compounds	30	X		X
Cadmium & cadmium compounds	30	X		X
Butyl paraben	27		X	
Mercury & mercury compounds	22	X		X
Phthalic anhydride	18			X
Ethyl paraben	17		X	
Di-n-Hexyl phthalate	16			X

Continued on page 16...

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Chemical	Number of Times Reported	Carcinogen	Endocrine Disruptor	Developmental or Reproductive Toxicant
Phenol	15			X
2-Ethylhexanoic acid	13			X
Bisphenol A	13			X
n-Butanol	9			X
Tetrabromobisphenol A	8			X
Vinyl chloride	8	X		
Acrylonitrile	7	X		
2,2',3,3',4,4',5,5',6,6'-Decabromodiphenyl ether (Deca, BDE-209)	4	X		X
Acetaldehyde	3	X		X
2-Ethyl-hexyl-4-methoxycinnamate	2		X	
2-Methoxyethanol	2			X
Ethylene glycol monoethyl ester	2			X
Methylene chloride	2	X		X
p-Hydroxybenzoic acid	2		X	
1,4-Dioxane	1	X		
4-tert-Octylphenol; 1,1,3,3-Tetramethyl-4-butylphenol	1		X	
Carbon disulfide	1			X
Estragole	1			X
Hexachlorobutadiene	1	X		X
n-Methylpyrrolidone	1			X
Tris (2-chlorethyl) phosphate	1	X		X

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At Safer States we believe families, communities, and the environment should be protected from the devastating impacts of our society's heavy use of chemicals. We believe that new state and national chemical policies will contribute to the formation of a cleaner, greener economy.

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